

Town of Mansfield
Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, December 8, 2011

Present: Stoddard (chair), Lennon, Ward, Shapiro, Sherman, Miller, Hart, Kaufman (staff), Hultgren (staff), Painter (staff), Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 by chair Stoddard.

The minutes from the October 13, 2011 meeting were approved on a motion from Lennon/Stoddard. The minutes from the November 10, 2011 meeting were approved on a motion from Sherman/Lennon.

Painter reported that Mansfield is one of 27 communities in the nation that has been awarded a HUD Community Challenge Planning Grant. Painter applied for the grant taking cues from the UConn Tech Park development and the search for a reliable water supply. The grant begins January 2012 and ends December 2014. The first year (2012) goal is to complete a sustainable design and green building action plan. The second year (2013) project is to prepare housing and economic development strategies based on the Plan of Conservation and Development. The third year (2014) project will focus on a re-write of the zoning and subdivision regulations that incorporate the recommendations from the sustainable design and green building action plan and the housing and economic development strategies. The Town will be negotiating the grant budget next week. The sustainability committee is written into the grant as having an active role in this process. To begin, Painter will be looking for the committee's input in assessing the community.

Stoddard reviewed the sustainability committee's progress with the five categories they identified as priorities for 2011.

1. Staffing – Kaufman has been hired for five hours per week to assist Painter with sustainability planning, and the HUD grant will fund consultants for the next three years;
2. Data gathering – The Town recently purchased a web based energy tracking program called Energy Watchdog; a fourth year of data has been recorded in the Small Town Carbon Calculator and the Director of Maintenance is scrutinizing the information for anomalies and trends;
3. Public awareness and education – The Town is participating in the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge; sustainability web pages with a map were created; the Energy Education Team is hosting a Transition Town training;
4. Engaging in Town projects – The sustainability committee suggested to the Board of Education and Town Council considering certain criteria when looking for a new school location, advocated for the Mansfield Hollow Hydro project and followed the Four Corners development;
5. Economic sustainability – Lennon started serving on the Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee this year.

Members decided to continue this focus for 2012. Staff will prepare an update of the committee's activities in 2011 for the Town Council. The committee will review the draft at the next meeting.

The following areas were identified as opportunities for the committee's input this coming year –

1. Environmental Impact Evaluation for the North Hillside Road water supply;
2. Town Council's review of the Mansfield Hollow Hydro power purchase agreement;
3. Participation in Town Council workshops on the school project;
4. Renewable energy systems for future phases of Storrs Center;
5. CL&P's proposed transmissions lines – Painter will provide the committee with a summary of their proposal.

The committee welcomed two new members, Vera Ward from Planning and Zoning and Paul Shapiro from Town Council. There is an open committee seat for another resident and Town Council member. Committee members were asked to bring recommendations to the next meeting.

The committee discussed meeting at another time. Each member stated when they are available:

Miller – Weds (not 4th) or Thurs at 5 pm

Lennon – Weds or Thurs at 5 pm

Kaufman – Weds (not 1st) or Thurs 1st & 4th at 5 pm

Ward – Tues or Weds at 5 pm

Hultgren – Weds or Thurs at 5 pm

Sherman – anytime at 5 pm

Stoddard – Weds at 5 or 7 pm

Matthews – no Thursdays

Walton – Tues, Weds or Thurs at 5 pm

Shapiro – Weds at 5 pm

Hart – Thurs 3rd & 4th at 5 pm (3rd Weds might be okay?)

Walton will get check availability of the conference rooms and make a decision on the meeting day and time for calendar year 2012.

Walton reported that the Energy Education Team is hosting a Transition Town training the weekend of January 7 & 8, 2012. The registration deadline is December 16, 2011. She will resend the flyer to committee members.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton